



GAZEBO

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Your Community
News and
Event Resource
for the
Town of Highland

October 2009

Looking to the Future

Members of the Town Council are taking an in-depth look at the public safety needs of the community as they begin planning for the future.

At a meeting September 30, the council, as well as members of the Police and Fire departments gathered to discuss the need for a new structure.

“Our current police station has served our community well,” said Council President Dan Vassar. “Having said that, I believe the facility needs to be replaced. It is a 20th Century station for a department that is fighting 21st Century crime.”

Mr. Vassar said there are numerous reasons the town is looking now to determine the future of the building that houses the police department, chief among them:

- The facility is too small and has no room for expansion. The Police Department was built for a department of 20 officers. Today, the department has a staff that includes 41 sworn officers.
- The structure is in poor condition.
- The building does not have the infrastructure to support the advanced technological needs of today's police force.

The proposal for a new police station has been accompanied by discussion about the possibility of creating a public safety structure at the site of the current Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road. The new building would house both police and fire. At the same time, Town Hall would swap addresses with that of the Central Fire Station, located at Fourth and Highway.

“This is a three-pronged proposal. Our first step was to acquire the two properties located immediately west of Town Hall, which gives us some flexibility in planning for the needs of the town,” Mr. Vassar said. “Next, we will begin studying the feasibility and cost of these improvements.”

The public safety/town hall discussions are a logical next step, he said.

“We have started the process of dealing with long-standing flooding problems in town. Now, it is time we looked at other areas of concern,” he said. “These are improvements that Highland needs, investments that will provide a wonderful community for today's residents and future generations to raise their families.”

Discussions are planned to continue in upcoming months. Meetings are open to the public.

Upcoming

Look in the next issue of the Gazebo Express to learn about the town's plans for celebrating the Christmas and New Year's holidays, upcoming activities to mark the 2010 Centennial and spending priorities for the upcoming year.

Please forward your comments and/or suggestions for future articles to:

**Gazebo Express c/o
Highland Town Hall
3333 Ridge Road
Highland, Indiana 46322**

or via email to:

gazeboexpress@gmail.com

Trick-or-Treating
Hours in Highland
are 5-7 pm on
Saturday,
October
31.



Centennial Posters

Highland's birthday is being memorialized in art – part of the South Shore's line-up of scenic depictions of Northwest Indiana.

The town's South Shore poster was commissioned by the Downtown Highland Association and created by Judith Mayer to celebrate Highland's 2010 Centennial. There are 250 of the limited edition artwork posters available for purchase through the Downtown Business Association. Cost will be \$35 for an unsigned poster and \$50 for a poster autographed by the artist. Proceeds of the sales will go to the Downtown Business Association.

Pat Popa, who is a member of the downtown business group and co-chair of the town's Centennial Commission is excited about the project.

"This is wonderful – that Highland now has its own South Shore poster," she said. "This is part of the legacy that is Northwest Indiana."

In the 1920s, the South Shore commissioned to have a series of posters created to promote ridership and travel to Northwest Indiana from Chicago on the commuter rail line. The idea was resurrected in the 1990s by the Northwest Indiana Forum.

Members of the business development group believed the new effort would have the same effect then as it had 70 years earlier – to successfully promote key assets and attributes of Northwest Indiana within – and outside – the region.

For more information, contact **Mrs. Popa at 689-6559**.

You are Invited...An after-hours event celebrating the unveiling of the artwork will be held October 29 from 6:30-9:30 pm at First Financial Bank, 2611 Highway Avenue. The public is invited to attend.

Centennial Bulbs Have Arrived

Some of the 10,000 fuschia tulip bulbs ordered to celebrate Highland's birthday in 2010 have arrived. The bulbs, which were expected to be delivered in early September, were delayed in shipment from Holland. Despite the delays, orders for the quality bulbs, which need to be planted yet this fall in order to bloom next spring, have been brisk.

Pat Popa, co-chair of the Highland Centennial Commission, said 2,500 of the bulbs were sold by the middle of September. With 5,000 of the bulbs earmarked for planting in public gardens throughout town, Mrs. Popa said there are only about 2,500 bulbs left to be purchased. Bulbs are being sold in groups of 10 for \$5.

To place an order for bulbs on-line, email **100@Highland.in.gov**. Orders can also be placed by contacting **Sheila Wadkins at 614-2768** or **Mary Luptak at 923-3666**.

Town Says "No" to Special Election

Members of the Highland Town Council voted unanimously in September to oppose a special election to determine the future of a Regional Transportation Authority.

In voting, the council took no stand on the RTA, but rather stood up to state lawmakers in opposing the costs that would be incurred by holding a special election this year, a referendum vote that would determine the fate of a proposed regional transit authority. Highland councilmen joined other elected officials from towns and cities throughout Lake County in opposing a state mandate to hold a referendum election November 3.

Elections for public office are held throughout Indiana during three of every four years. It is only in the year following the election of the U.S. President – in this case 2009 – where ballots are not cast.

The referendum mandate was included by state lawmakers during last-minute haggling over Indiana's biennial budget. Members of the council, who are grappling over how to pay for the day-to-day costs of running the town since Gov. Mitch Daniels and the Indiana General Assembly froze municipal spending in Lake County two years ago, said now is not the time to incur a projected expense of about \$414,000 for a forced referendum.

Taking Another Step out of the Flood Plain

A positive review of the Little Calumet River levee project by the Federal Emergency Management Agency is assisting the town in moving neighborhoods in north Highland out of the flood plain. The Town Council had requested the review in an effort to secure an early release from flood zone restrictions for homes and businesses located along the Little Calumet corridor.

The release would allow for a relaxing of building restrictions in the area allowing individuals to build homes with basements; and, the possibility that housing insurance costs could be reduced for residents in the flood plain.

An approval of the town's request for a "conditional letter of map revision" would remove some Highland neighborhoods from the flood zone two or more years sooner than it would if town officials waited until the project was completed to the Indiana/Illinois state line.

In a letter dated August 17, David Bascom, a program specialist for FEMA, detailed the positive impact the flood mitigation efforts will have on the community and outlined the final steps the town needs to take in order to secure the conditional letter of map revision.

Leaf Collection Guide 2009

Special Pull-Out – Save This Page for Leaf Collection Information for Your Neighborhood

Taking Care of Those Leaves

Between now and early December, thousands of tons of leaves from maples, oaks, sycamores, and yes, even those pesky cottonwoods, will float down on lawns, streets and sidewalks.

Like clockwork, the town ramps up its efforts to remove the mountains of leaves just as they begin their fall descent.

Because of the mid- to late-summer drought that caused leaves to begin falling earlier, the Department of Public Works decided to start leaf pick-up one week sooner than normal – on Monday October 12 for those living in the neighborhoods in northwest Highland.

For the last 18 years, the town has conducted its fall leaf pick-up program, vacuuming up leaves that are raked to the parkway and applying them to land the town owns near Cline Avenue at the Little Calumet River.

Public Works Director John Bach said eventually the town plans to locate a new park at the site. Until then, he and his crews continue to build up the earth with layers of leaves that are covered over with dirt.

“We always get questions about what we do with the leaves and why they are not picked up with the weekly trash,” he said. “State law mandates that leaves and branches are not disposed of in landfills. Managing our own leaves and keeping them in town has saved a great deal of money on trucking and disposal fees.”

Move Those Parked Cars

When it comes to leaf collection, Street Supervisor Kevin Huzzie said parked cars present major problems.

“We have large trucks and large trailers that we use to vacuum the leaves,” he said. “Parked cars present a major problem for us when we are trying to maneuver our vehicles and get all of the leaves picked up. Our crews are so busy that it becomes very difficult for them to go back and pick up the leaves they couldn’t because there were vehicles in the way.”

Please keep all parked vehicles off the street on your collection day. Violators are subject to a \$25 fine.

Don't Cut Those Branches

The town is asking residents to refrain from optional branch removal during October and November.

During those months, the crews that would ordinarily be out in town chipping up discarded limbs are busy removing leaves.

“If there is a storm or something unexpected happens, we will provide the manpower to come out and chip up the branches,” said Kevin Huzzie, street supervisor. “What we are asking residents is to delay optional pruning or trimming until after leaf collection is finished in early December.”

The 411 on Leaf Collection

The 2009 program begins on Monday, October 12 and ends on Friday, December 4.

The town is divided into 10 pick-up zones. Please check on the following page to find your zone and pick-up dates.

Leaves should be placed in a pile or row in the parkway between the sidewalk and curb as near to the street as possible. In areas without curbs, leaves should be placed on the grass or parkway at the edge of the street.

Collection begins at 7 am.

If leaves are not collected on the scheduled day, please be advised the town will maintain the order of collection. The Street Department has scheduled time at the end of each week to compensate for time lost due to inclement weather or other delays.

Leaf collection will be scheduled in Spring 2010 for two weeks in April, weather permitting.

Keep Those Leaves in the Parkway

Leaves can present major problems if they end up on the street.

“In light of all of the flooding problems we have had, we are asking residents to be aware of where they place their leaves for pick-up. It doesn’t take many leaves to plug the storm drains and cause flooding,” said Public Works Director John Bach.

If you have questions, please call 972-5083.

Leaf Collection Guide 2009

Leaf Collection Calendar

Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving, No collection

Friday, November 27 – No collection

Zone 1

Monday, October 12
Monday, October 26
Monday, November 9
Monday, November 23

Zone 2

Tuesday, October 13
Tuesday, October 27
Tuesday, November 10
Monday, November 23

Zone 3

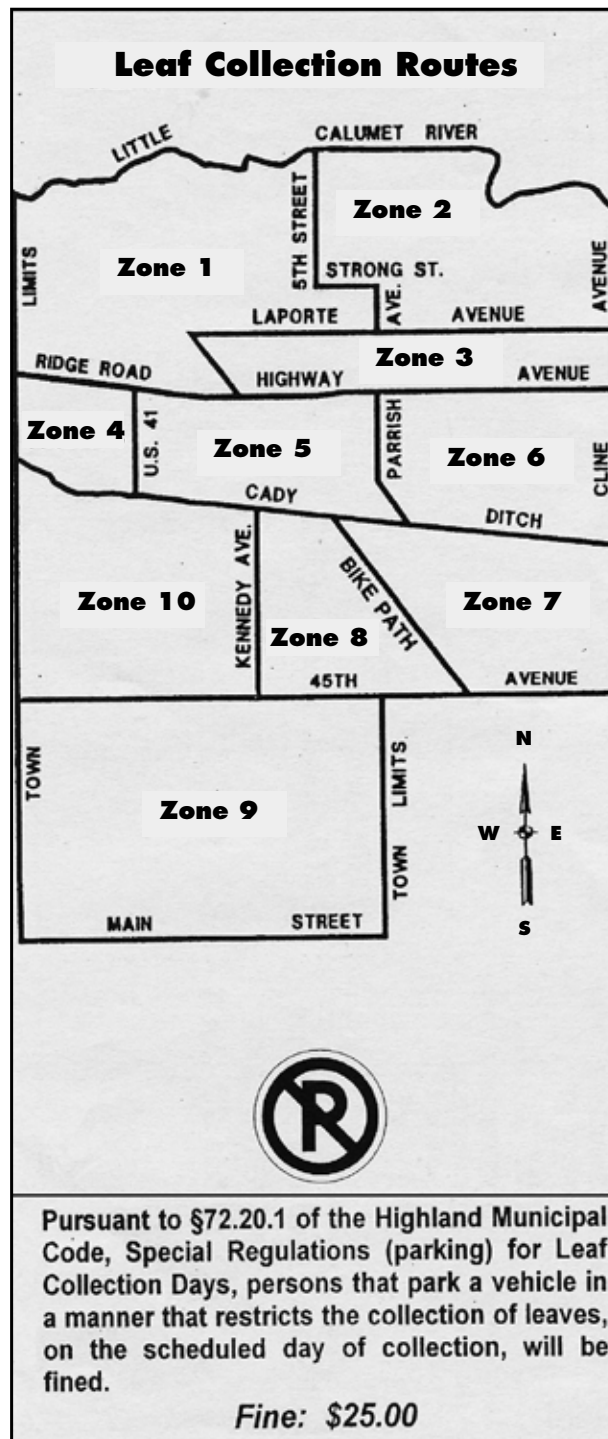
Wednesday, October 14
Wednesday, October 28
Wednesday, November 11
Tuesday, November 24

Zone 4

Thursday, October 15
Thursday, October 29
Thursday, November 12
Tuesday, November 24

Zone 5

Friday, October 16
Friday, October 30
Friday, November 13
Wednesday, November 25



Zone 6

Monday, October 19
Monday, November 2
Monday, November 16
Monday, November 30

Zone 7

Tuesday, October 20
Tuesday, November 3
Tuesday, November 17
Tuesday, December 1

Zone 8

Wednesday, October 21
Wednesday, November 4
Wednesday, November 18
Wednesday, December 2

Zone 9

Thursday, October 22
Thursday, November 5
Thursday, November 19
Thursday, December 3

Zone 10

Friday, October 23
Friday, November 6
Friday, November 20
Friday, December 4

If you have questions, please call 972-5083.

Generating Safety From Flooding

Like silent sentries, a series of massive generators stand guard along the Little Calumet River, safeguarding the community.

In September, electricians and engineers put the last of the four generators on-line, providing a critical safety feature that will allow storm and sanitary water to be pumped even during power outages.

“It had become routine that every time we had a major storm, it was accompanied by a power outage, which made it so we weren’t able to pump the water,” said John Bach, public works director. “With these generators in place, we will be able to continue to pump water, eliminating the flooding that has often accompanied heavy rains.”

The generators are powered and checked every month to ensure they are in perfect working order.

“We have been lucky that we have had dry weather this September compared to the last several years when we had serious flooding,” Mr. Bach said. “Still, we all know there is no way to predict when the next major rain will affect the town. These generators, along with all of the other flood mitigation efforts we have going on throughout town, should provide some peace of mind, knowing that Highland has better protection from flooding today than it ever has before.”

Eliminating Perks

Following a month-long discussion among the members of the Town Council, department heads, employees and residents, a long-standing town employee perk has been discontinued.

Town Council President Dan Vassar, said members of the council were unaware that town employees had a little-known perk that allowed personal use of municipal property.

It was a benefit that had been in place for decades, one which Mr. Vassar said he could not justify.

“It just didn’t seem right that employees would be able to use town property for personal use,” he said. “Town employees receive a salary and benefits. If a town resident could not borrow a town lawn mower or chain saw, then it didn’t seem right that an employee could.”

Members of the council voted in September to change the town law and eliminate the practice. The council voted 4-1 on the issue. In addition to Mr. Vassar, Councilmen Mark Herak, Brian Novak and Konnie Kuiper voted to eliminate the practice while Councilman Bernie Zemen voted to continue to provide the perk.

Calendars Mark the Present While Providing a Glimpse into the Past

The Highland Historical Society has compiled a pictorial calendar, titled “Reflections,” to commemorate the town’s Centennial. The calendars, which will be a mix of vintage and newer photos of the town and its residents, will be sold for \$7. The calendars are expected to be available in October. Pre-orders are being accepted. For more information, please call **Sue Douthett at 922-1047, or Sheila Wadkins at 838-7861.**



Highland Town Councilmen (pictured left to right) Mark Herak, Dan Vassar, Konnie Kuiper and Bernie Zemen take a break after inspecting the town’s latest flood-fighting tool.

Main Square Spruce-Ups

Parks and Recreation has given the gazebo a new look and replaced the manual sign that has been in place at the park for decades.

That mustard color residents overwhelmingly said they did not like has been replaced by a sandy taupe, which brightens the new facility.

In addition, an electronic events billboard has replaced the manual sign at the corner of 5th Street and Ridge Rd.

Fall Luncheon for Seniors

Date: Thursday, November 12

Time: Noon to 2 pm

Location: Lincoln Center

Fee: \$8 along with a side dish to share

Register By: Monday, November 2

For more details: Contact the Parks Office at 838-0114.

Mark Your Calendars...

Upcoming Programs – For information about any park program, please call 838-0114.



Spookable Treats for All Ages...Celebrating Autumn Children's Activities

Boo Blast Afternoon

Date: Saturday, October 24 • **Location:** Lincoln Center • **Party Time:** 3-5 pm

Calling all children ages 10 and under. Grab a costume and head over to Lincoln Center for the Boo Blast. Hosted by Tri-Kappa, this is an afternoon of fun, games, storytelling, snacks and more.

Boo Blast Dance

Date: Saturday, October 24 • **Location:** Lincoln Center • **Dance Time:** 6:30-8:30 pm

This dance is open to all fifth and sixth graders who live in Highland or Munster. The dance will feature a costume contest, games and snacks. Tickets for both events may be purchased at the door or in advance at Lincoln Center or through any Tri-Kappa member. For information, call **Bridget at 322-7746 or Holly at Hollym7@sbcglobal.net.**

For All Ages

Jack-O-Lantern Festival

The Highland Kiwanis third annual salute to carved pumpkins starts October 29 and 30. To enter, simply pay a \$2 entry fee and bring your best carved pumpkin to the Main Square Gazebo. All jack-o-lanterns entered in the contest will be displayed from 5-8 pm each day. Come out and vote for your favorite pumpkin. Bring the family for some gold old fashioned Halloween fun.

Enter The Pumpkin Plod

Date: The race is open to all ages and will be run on Thanksgiving morning – Thursday, November 26.

Time: 9 am • **Location:** The race begins at Lincoln Street and Kennedy Avenue and finishes at Lincoln Center.

■ There is still time to train to run or walk in the Pumpkin Plod. The course is six miles for runners and three for walkers. It is flat and it is fast.

Details – Runners

Advance registration is \$15 with a shirt and \$10 without. Race-day registration is \$22 with a shirt and \$17 without. Pre-registration ends at 5 pm on Monday, November 23.

Details – Walkers

Advance registration is \$10 with a shirt and \$5 without. Race-day registration is \$17 with a shirt and \$12 without. Pre-registration ends at 5 pm on Monday, November 23.

Bio-Identical Hormone Replacement Therapy Seminar

Bio-identical hormone replacement therapy is available to those who don't want to use synthetic hormones, such as Premarin and Prempro, prefer not to regulate their hormones with birth control pills or mask their symptoms with anti-depressants. Learn about the benefits of plant-based human-identical hormones and how to work with your health care professional to determine your hormone levels and specific needs. Seminar will be presented by V.J. Damasium, PharmD, of Vyto's Pharmacy in Highland and Hammond.

Date: Thursday, October 15

Time: 6-8 pm • **Location:** Lincoln Center

Fee: \$5 for residents/\$8 for non-residents

Flea Market/Comic Book Show

There will be bargains galore during this years market/show. Collectors of comic books, sports cards, hot wheels, autographed memorabilia and other collectibles will not be disappointed! Roger Parker from P & P Collectibles will be promoting the card show in conjunction with the Lincoln Center Indoor Flea Market. Flea market vendors will be selling household items, toys, books and more. This event is **free** and open to the public.

Date: Saturdays, October 17 and November 21 • **Time:** 9 am-4 pm

Location: Lincoln Center

Vendor Fees: \$30 for a 10' by 10' space

Deadline: One week prior to the event

Note: Tables and chairs are not provided

Holiday Arts & Craft Show

Parks and Recreation is looking for those who have a special talent for creating homemade arts and crafts and vendors who have unique products to offer the community. This event is **free** and open to the public.

Date: Saturday and Sunday, November 28 and 29

Time: Saturday 9 am-4 pm and Sunday 11 am-3 pm

Location: Lincoln Center

Vendor Fees: \$50 for a 10' by 10' space

Wall Space: \$75

Deadline: October 30

Note: Tables and chairs are not provided

Past crafters receive priority over space if registered by deadline.